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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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Award $700,000 In Back Pay At Reynolds Tobacco

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JUN 22 1945
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

By Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent, Local 22

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Back pay checks, retroactive to April, 1944, have started rolling into the pockets of the workers at the R. J. Reynolds (Camels) cigarette plant this week. And the members of Local 22 all agree that 2/3 of a million dollars is nothing to sneeze at. Even the people who doubted the strength of the union are beginning to soften up.

It all began last April when the contract was signed. Provisions were approved by the WLB for grievance settlements, top seniority for 100 shop stewards, new job classifications, new ceiling rates on a number of jobs, new wage progression schedules, and vacations with pay after 1 year's work instead of the old plan of 2 years.

Wage increases, which had been refused by the Company, were finally approved by the WLB. All the workers in the plant were covered by the increase. The WLB set up a new hiring rate, raising it 5c after 30 days, and again raising wages to the minimum of the job classification after 60 days. Employees who made 50c to 60c an hour got 4c increases; those making 61c to 70c an hour got a 3c increase; 71c to 80c an hour workers got 2c increases; and those making over 81c got 1c increases.

These increases started coming through on December 23, 1944, but the back pay covering the period from April to December just came through in February.

CHECK-OFF WON

Another gain Local 22 made was the check-off of dues which went into effect [illegible]. Frank Green, Chairman of Local 22, tells how he was called over to the Company office to pick up the January and February dues.

"I walked in to Judge Moore's office (Company lawyer)," said Green, "and the Judge said 'It grieves me so much' and handed me two checks totalling $11,538.50." Due to the lack of middle initials and social security numbers which the Company requires, the entire membership will not be checked off until the first week in March.

New members are being signed up daily at Local 22's headquarters, and the organizing campaign is going at full swing. Members like Slim Sheppard and Evan Blakely are doing a swell job. Joe Emmons recently came down from Lima, Ohio, to join our organizing staff.

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NLRB Blasts At AFL Jim-Crow

Washington, D.C.—A blow against the Jim Crow policies of the AFL Tobacco Workers International was struck here on Feb. 27 when a National Labor Relations trial examiner threatened to cancel the collective bargaining rights of the AFL local at Larus Bros. in Richmond, Va.

The case came before the NLRB through petition of FTA Local 45, which has bargaining rights for the workers in the Larus Bros. Stemmery. Local 45 asked the Board to withdraw AFL certification in the plant under contract and to schedule a new election there.

The trial examiner's report to the NLRB blasted the AFL for leaving the Negro workers out in the cold in its agreement with the Company. If accepted by the Board, the examiner's recommendations will have a sweeping [illegible] against its Negro membership and failed to represent them in good faith.

The AFL had won a collective bargaining election at the plant (not the Stemmery) on March 14, 1944, defeating FTA 315 to 179. Two days after the election, George Benjamin, an International Vice-President of the AFL union, and a Negro himself, met with the Negro workers and advised them to apply for a charter for a separate local.

LEFT OUT OF CONTRACT

Hearings held by the NLRB examiner revealed that management, which had signed a contract with the AFL local, did not consider itself bound by contract to the Jim Crow unit, which was not a party to the agreement.

The trial examiner recommended that the AFL union be given until March 10 to get rid of the segregated unit and integrate the Negroes in a plantwide local, or face another election contest with FTA, which previously represented the Negro workers.

"The situation here presented resulted from the insistence of high-ranking officials of the (AFL) International that they make decisions as to the creation of unions, a function which properly belongs to employees," the trial examiner stated. He said that Benjamin "directed and diverted" the Negroes into the special unit.

FTA On the Air

Yes, it's a date! On Saturday, March 10, over the regular CIO radio series, "Job for Tomorrow," you will hear the story of FTA and the food industry of America.

In this exciting program, which is broadcast on a coast-to-coast network through the Columbia Broadcasting System [illegible] war prosperity will be brought to the nation, as well as the programs of the CIO Packinghouse Workers and Farm Equipment Workers unions.

Production Saves Lives, FTA Soldier Declares

Seattle, Wash. — S/Sgt. William Wood, member of Local 7, who holds the Bronze Star medal, Purple Heart and the prized Combat Infantryman's badge for outstanding conduct in action, has just returned home on furlough from the European Theatre of War, where he fought with the 80th Infantry Division on the Western Front.

Appealing for an all-out effort on the home front to win the war quickly with the fewest possible casualties, Brother Wood talked of shortages on the battlefront, shortages of ammunition and equipment. "Sure, it's true. It's true because in a massive war like this one, with large scale fighting going on day and night, there can never be enough of anything. But our supply people have done a wonderful job getting the stuff up front."

WROTE A LETTER

He pulled out of his pocket a letter of thanks he had sent to Rep. Hugh DeLacy, who had supported the May Manpower Bill. "Just before I left the line," the letter read, "about a dozen of us were talking about National Service legislation. Some of the boys wondered whether labor would understand how desperately we at the front needed this all-out war support. Those of us [illegible] would back us up."

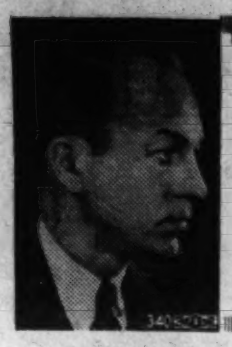
"It got to be quite a discussion and I told the fellows how labor and the people in my city of Seattle had elected you, one of themselves, to Congress to help us win this war. So you see I really felt good when I read that you voted the way I knew you would vote; the way that I told the boys you would vote—for them.

"It's pretty rough up front," Wood went on. "We fight hard and try to win the war as quickly as possible because the faster the war is won, the greater number of us will come home alive. National Service legislation will save the lives of some of us on the battlefront."

Wood is now heading back into action, hopeful that the home front will respond quickly to the needs of the front line fighters.

Back Pay Checks: Proudly displaying their share of the 2/3 of a million dollars in back pay won by Local 22 at the R. J. Reynolds cigarette plant, are (Reading l. to r.) Frank Green, Chairman of Local 22; James Sprinkle, Amie Bazinett, Carl Welch, Lester Yontz, Clark (Slim) Sheppard, and Evan Blakely. It took a long time and a lot of useless delay, but the Union finally came out on top, as you can witness by the back pay checks in their hands.

There's a reason for the happy smiles on the faces of these Local 22 members who work in the No. 256 Plug Stemmery Dept. at the R. J. Reynolds plant. Just look at the back pay checks in their hands and you'll know the answer. Gathering around to celebrate the happy occasion are (reading l. to r.) Amanda Alexander, Elnora Williams, Minnie Bradly, Mildred Nash, Fannie E. Williams, Dinah Blanding—Chief Shop Steward, Vermel Harris, Ada McCants, Jessie Myers—Chaplain of No. 256 Membership meeting, Virginia Bryant—Shop Steward, Floree Baity—Shop Steward and Secy. of No. 256 Membership meeting, Theodosia Simpson—Business Agent of Local 22, Nettie Petty, Eva Koger, and Shop Steward William Crank.



FACING OUR PROBLEMS

By DONALD HENDERSON,
General President

WHAT IS JOHN L. LEWIS UP TO?

BEHIND the pretense of breaking the Little Steel Formula, John L. Lewis is attempting to smash the War Labor Board.

But this is merely incidental to the main objective of Lewis: to cause a realignment of political forces in the country as a result of disgust and anger throughout the nation against a nationwide strike which will so strengthen the hands of the reactionaries as opposed to the progressive forces around Roosevelt as to insure the defeat of the Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks proposals, and smash the foundations for a new world so successfully laid at the Crimea Conference in Yalta.

Labor is agreed that a revision of the Little Steel Formula is just and necessary, and long overdue. The demands of the miners are just and should be met. The demands of the steel workers, packinghouse workers, textile workers, auto workers, the food workers, tobacco workers and all the other workers seeking to reestablish wages in line with prices and cost of living are also just.

The report of the public members of the War Labor Board recommending no revision of the Little Steel Formula should be rejected by the President. Every local of labor should urge the President to take steps to revise the Little Steel Formula. This is not only necessary as a matter of bringing wages in line with current costs of living, but this revision and immediate steps to guarantee no decrease in take-home pay during the impending transition from the defeat of Hitler to the post-war world must also be made by the President if full employment is to be had.

Strike Would Be Treason

But a fight to revise the Little Steel Formula is one thing!

The calling of a nationwide coal strike at a moment when the final and decisive stages of the fight against [illegible] the people of America is a fish of a different smell.

Lewis knows full well that a nationwide coal strike at this time will be a stab in the back and outright treachery to the fighting forces abroad. He knows full well that a nationwide coal strike at this time will result in a tremendous nationwide reaction, weakening the labor movement everywhere, strengthening the hands of the reactionaries, weakening the progressive forces around Roosevelt, strengthening the reactionaries in and out of Congress. Anti-labor laws will be passed overnight, just as the Smith-Connally Law was passed, over the President's veto, as a result of Lewis' strike two years ago.

He knows full well that the confusion and chaos resulting in labor's ranks in the face of these events will make raiding by AFL unions and the smashing of the CIO real possibilities.

But most of all he sees very clearly that such a situation, by weakening labor and the progressive forces and strengthening the reactionaries, causing a realignment of political forces, makes possible the defeat of the Yalta Agreements, and the defeat of Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks.

Support CIO Program

The action of Emil Rieve and the International Executive Board of the Textile Workers Union, affiliated to the CIO, in withdrawing from the no-strike pledge must also be unconditionally condemned. President Murray must be fully supported in his position to maintain the no-strike pledge and at the coming National Executive Board meeting on March 10th, reaffirmation of this pledge by all CIO Unions must be insured.

Under these conditions no responsible labor leader, and no patriotic American worker can hesitate for a moment. Everyone of us must take the following actions:

1) Urge President Roosevelt to take over the coal mines before John L. Lewis can interrupt production by as much as one hour.

2) Write and wire President Philip Murray supporting him in his demand on President Roosevelt to revise the Little Steel Formula.

3) Write and wire direct to President Roosevelt urging him to reject the report of the public members of the War Labor Board and urging that he take steps to seek a revision of the Little Steel Formula as a matter of justice, and in preparation for maintaining full take-home pay during the impending transition following the defeat of Hitlerite Germany.

TAILORED TO FIT

FROM WASHINGTON

A Good Manpower Bill

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

CONGRESS finally is considering a manpower bill which will do the job of mobilizing workers to produce the weapons needed to meet increased war demands. The Kilgore Bill (HR 1752) hits at the heart of the problem by providing for: 1) employment ceilings to prevent waste manpower, 2) hiring controls under which workers are placed on suitable jobs where they are needed, 3) administration by the War Manpower Commission, rather than Selective Service which is simply not equipped to do the job.

The Senate Military Affairs Committee reported this bill favorably to take the place of the May-Bailey bill which does not provide a satisfactory solution of the problem and is opposed by both the CIO and AFL. It is essential, if we are to get workers to the right place at the right time at this most crucial stage of the war, that the Kilgore bill be passed speedily by the Senate and that its principles win out in the conference between Senate and House representatives on the two bills.

But now the labor baiters who have pretended their main object was manpower mobilization are coming into the open with amendments which we oppose and whose introduction may kill the hope of good legislation. Sen. Austin (Rep. Vt.), has proposed an amendment providing for fines and jail penalties for violation of ceiling regulations. This amendment is unnecessary and should be defeated. Sen. Tydings has an amendment re-inforcing the old "Tydings amendment" to the Selective Service Act which has already frozen agricultural workers to their jobs. This amendment makes it impossible for agricultural workers to enter the armed forces on the same basis as other workers. It is part and parcel of the general system of discrimination against agricultural workers which must be wiped out.

Fight For Bill

The Kilgore bill has bi-partisan support in the Senate. Senator Burton of Ohio, a leading conservative Republican supports the bill and has led the floor fight in the Senate for it. He was supported by Sen. Ball (Rep. Minn.), the man who couldn't swallow Tom Dewey and backed President Roosevelt for re-election. Democrats are split on the bill. The moral of the story is that all those who honestly want to mobilize workers to win the war are in favor of the bill which will do the job.

The Kilgore bill can pass if the Senate hears from the people immediately that this is the bill they want. It it does not pass, we will be faced with two alternatives, both bad: No legislation at all and continuance of present bad manpower distribution and practices, or bad legislation of the May-Bailey variety.

Tell It To Congress

HERE are a few of the important bills now before Congress. Watch your daily newspapers for current status of these bills, and take action on them at once:

War Manpower Bill (O'Mahoney-Kilgore—H. R. 1752)

Gives War Manpower Commission authority to allocate manpower. Provides for transportation, seniority rights. Two amendments in present version should be deleted: the jail-fine penalty for violators and the freeze of farm workers.

ACTION: Ask your Senator to help delete "Austin" and "Tydings" amendments and pass the bill as originally offered by O'Mahoney & Kilgore.

Anti-Poll Tax (Marcantonio—H. R. 7)

House Rules Committee is stalling on this as usual. Since House passed the bill twice before, there is no excuse for not giving it a chance to vote on it again.

ACTION: Ask your Rep. to sign Discharge Petition as soon as it is announced and to get others to sign it quickly.

Equal Rights Amendment (H. J. Res. 1 and others)

Abrogates protective legislation for women and gives nothing new.

ACTION: Send statements opposing this to Rep. Weaver, Chairman, Subcommittee No. 2 and to your Congressman.

65c Minimum (H. R. 1172—Holofield, Dem., Calif.)

Identical with S. Con. Res. 48 introduced by Pepper last session. Recommends 65 cent substandard minimum. Has been referred to House Banking and Currency Committee.

ACTION: Write Chairman Brent Spence of Banking and Currency Committee asking that hearings be held.

HEAR YE!

All members and officers of FTA are invited to contribute to this column of opinion on various topics of current labor and national interest. Drop us a line and tell us what you're thinking.

Jane Hodes, FTA Research Assistant, wrote this little poem called THREE IS A CROWD, or HOW TO MAKE YOUR UNION TICK:

There was a young man called Frank,
Whose mind was never a blank;
With ideas he was vocal
For building his local,
All obstacles he did outflank.

There was young fellow called Ted,
Who filled every slacker with dread:
"Now pay up your dues,
For it's you that will lose.
If this Union is weakened," he said.

There was a young lady named Anne,
To whom all the membership ran,
When a grievance was lurking,
A committee not working,
She always could offer a plan.

Now F. T. and A. were swell,
As I have been trying to tell,
But alone they meant nothing;
When do they mean something?
The answer you know very well!

It is when these three characters meet
That they simply cannot be beat,
For working as one,
They get the job done,
And nothing can make them retreat.

Reuel Stanfield, President of Local 15, went on the air in behalf of Senator Pepper's 65c Minimum Wage Bill. In his talk he said: "President Roosevelt, in his election campaign, advocated a future in which there would be 60 million jobs. The American people accepted this plan by an overwhelming majority when they returned him to office.

"One person alone cannot carry through this policy. We must support the President's program by writing to our Congressmen and Senators, as well as our local representatives, on all issues affecting our livelihood and welfare. Don't let them forget for a day that you do not want to go back to the old days of uncertainty at your job, and fear of poverty in your old age.

"Your Representatives listen when they get letters from the people back home. Start a barrage of letter writing on every issue connected with our living standards.

"We of the South must realize that the only way in which we are going to have healthy and prosperous conditions is by seeing to it that the majority of the people earn sufficient wages to buy the necessities of life. Businessmen as well as labor organizations must take this into consideration, because increased wages will benefit them as well as every citizen."

Katie Scott, Reporter from Local 91, says: "There is only one way to stop any and all hate rumors and malicious gossip, whether they be directed at individuals, labor or industry, Negroes or whites, Protestants, Catholics or Jews. It is a job that is up to each one of us who believes in the brotherhood of man. We can't alibi or shirk the task.

"If you can't write it and sign it, don't say it. Test this idea on yourself. How many of your rash statements are you able to sign? Listen to your own conversation sometime. If you aren't willing to back up your own charges, don't make them.

"Put this into practice, and the result will be that you will not exaggerate, you will not show prejudice, and you will be respected for your understanding—a person to whom people will listen."

Unfinished Business...

he may be a boy from your own home town . . . from your own CIO local

he IS from your own country

he fights and you work and give for our heritage of freedom

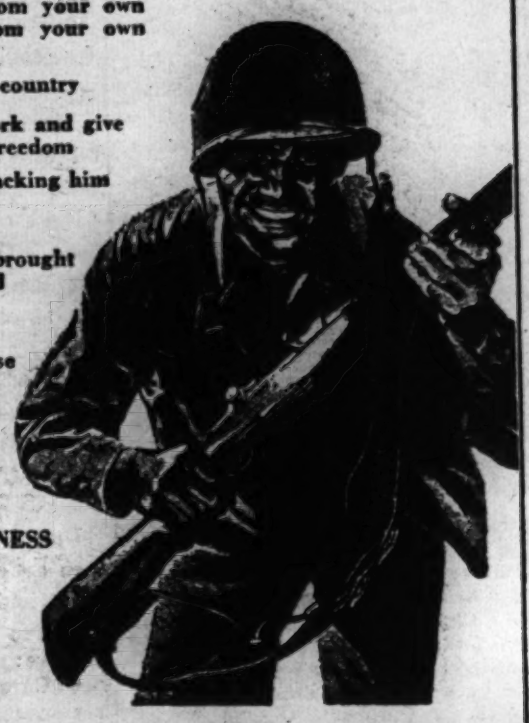
that is why you are backing him all the way through

until the last town is taken, the last man brought home, the last wound healed . . .

and you are backing the Red Cross because it is helping him see the job through to the end . . .

because through the Red Cross you can help him clean up

UNFINISHED BUSINESS



Give To The Red Cross

National CIO War Relief Committee

WLB Okays 55c Minimum

Washington, D. C. — Opening the way for a general wage increase for some 4 million workers, the War Labor Board has authorized its regional boards to approve increases in Minimum rates up to 55c an hour when requested by an employer or an employer and union to correct substandards of living, it was announced by WLB chairman William H. Davis on Feb. 27.

Davis estimated that these raises would particularly benefit the workers in substandard wage industries such as textile, lumber, cottonseed oil, fertilizer, turpentine, laundries, etc.

NOT HIGH ENOUGH

While "the Board does not recognize that 55c an hour is high enough for elimination of substandard wages," he said. "The Board says that at least 55c an hour is necessary." Heretofore the Board's minimum was 50c an hour.

Public and labor members of the WLB voted for the resolution setting 55c hourly as the substandard minimum pay. Industry members reserved their vote—which means they may deliver a very strong dissent later.

OTHER PROPOSALS

At the same time they proposed the 5c increase over the previous minimum, WLB public and labor members also pointed to legislative amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act as a means of solving the problem of substandard wages. They also recommended increases in inter-related job classification rates in order to keep the same wage differentials now existing above minimum wage rates.

The only two hitches in the proposed increase are: first, that employers agreeing to raising the minimum wage to 55c may not increase prices without consent of Stabilization Director Fred Vinson; and second, that the regional WLB must first approve the boost in wages for each plant.

CIO Hits Wage Report of WLB

Washington, D. C. (FP)—Reiterating that "now, more than ever, it is of the utmost importance to our war effort that there be maintained uninterrupted production," CIO Pres. Philip Murray Feb. 23 assailed the report of the public members of the Natl. War Labor Board as failing to meet the needs of the nation.

Murray said that "the CIO and its members are fully conscious of this need (full production) and therefore shall observe their no-strike pledge."

Saying that the report of the CIO members had pointed to the "basic weaknesses and fallacies of the public members' report," Murray said the "situation in which labor now finds itself is simply intolerable."

WILL APPEAL TO FDR

Murray called for upward revision of the Little Steel formula, unshackling of the WLB from the freezing restrictions of Economic Stabilization Director Fred Vinson and concluded by announcing that "there will be convened at a very early date an extraordinary session of the executive board of the CIO to tackle this crucial problem. Our conclusions will be presented directly to Pres. Roosevelt."

The CIO members of the WLB attacked the public members report in vigorous language saying it "reveals a complete absence of understanding of the economic problems which are now present and will shortly confront the nation."

LABOR MEMBERS SPEAK

Attacking the basis on which the public members found wages were higher than living costs, the CIO members said living costs were up at least 30% and basic wage rates less than 20%. But the report of the public members, they said, was "predicated . . . upon a new rule which they now create which completely ignores this basic inequity."

"The national objective of maintaining purchasing power to assure full production and full employment is undermined by the public members who refuse to make provision through a necessary wage adjustment to meet an obviously expected loss in earnings" due to the curtailment of overtime pay when the war is ended in Europe, CIO members pointed out.

VICTORY FOOD SELECTION

War Food Administration

Get Business Support For Pepper Bill

Charleston, S.C. — A delegation of representatives from the CIO and AFL local unions and housewives, called on State Senator C. T. Wallace of South Carolina on Saturday, Feb. 17, to congratulate him on his stand to abolish poll taxes in the State, according to Reporter Rebecca Stanfield. Wallace's support was enlisted against the proposal of the "Preparedness for Peace" Commission to establish 25c and 35c wage minimums in South Carolina intrastate and mercantile industries.

Local 15, which was the spearhead of the meeting, presented a petition against this proposal signed by 35 businessmen of Charleston.

ABILITY TO BUY

"We the Businessmen and Merchants of Charleston realize that our main source of revenue is derived through the ability of workers to buy, and their flow of buying is governed by the amount of pay they receive," read the petition. It went on to condemn the Preparedness for Peace Commission's proposals "which would encourage poverty and curtail business," and endorsed the Pepper Bill providing for a 65c minimum wage.

After reading the petition, Senator Wallace promised to enlist as much assistance as possible in the State Legislature to push the Pepper Bill in Congress.

He made it plain to those present at the meeting that organized labor can make itself heard in the law-making bodies if it is backed up solidly by qualified registered voters.

Local 15 and Co. Submit Wage Increase To WLB

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Charleston, S. C. — A five cent wage raise for all workers at the American Tobacco Co. was submitted to the WLB, by Local 15 and the Company. The raise was agreed upon at a conference before WLB representatives, which was held to review five disputed points in the new contract between the Company and the Union.

Company representatives promised to pay a differential to night shift workers whenever such a shift was put on.

Other points covered were relief girls, specified number of machines for mechanics, six months' reopening clause, and time study and hourly pay instead of piece work for the box department.

Representing Local 15 at the hearing were Dan Reid, Louise Simmons, Iris Gehlken, Joseph R. McKenzie, S. B. Graham, and President and Business Agent, Reuel Stanfield. This was the first time in Charleston's history that white and colored workers met together to settle a dispute in which they had the same interests.

Plans to form a South Carolina Industrial Union Council within a month were made at a meeting of all CIO unions called by E. Sandefur, CIO Regional Director. FTA was represented at the meeting by Reuel Stanfield.

Brother Stanfield is now serving on the War Manpower Commission and is also the Labor representative on the local Red Cross.

Another financially successful dance was held by Local 15 on Feb. 6. These dances serve two purposes; the membership has a good time, and the profits go to buy furniture for the new Union meeting hall.

Regional Council Endorses Wallace

By Frank Hargrove, Regional Director

Little Rock, Ark. — Delegates representing FTA locals in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee, gathering here for the regular monthly Mississippi Delta Regional Council meeting, adopted a resolution urging Congress to approve Henry Wallace as Secretary of Commerce.

After asking the opinions of the local unions represented, the Council went on record approving the use of war prisoners where such use was necessary to production, and where the local free labor supply was exhausted.

Guest speakers at the meeting were FTA International Vice-Pres., Owen Whitfield; and Claude Williams, Director of the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion.

Local 91 Draws Up Contract Proposals

By Katie Scott, Reporter

New Orleans, La. — Reviewing the progress of Local 91 at a recent membership meeting, the Executive Board was pleased to report the cooperation of M. Trelles & Co. during the past few meetings between the Company and the Union.

Several employees were reported to have missed receiving the retroactive pay due them in December. A committee was appointed by the Local to go over the records and the mistake will be corrected by the Company.

Local 91 was very happy to welcome International Representative P. G. Fourcade, and we are sure that with his help and the cooperation of the membership we will go far.

Proposals have already been drawn up for the new contract. Among the many changes being proposed is an increase in wages.

Collecting clothing for the war ravaged peoples of the Philippine Islands, members of Local 7's Clothing Drive Committee inspect the first bundles of clothes received at the Union headquarters. Standing (l. to r.) are Marcial Peralta, Dorothy Kistler, Johnny Soria, George Pascua, Business Agent Cornelio Briones, Secretary Prudencio P. Mori, Dispatcher C. L. (Joe) Camarillo, and Treasurer V. A. Velasco. Sitting (l. to r.) are Mary C. Kaufman, Local 7 Office Secretary; Hilda Hansen, Secy., Seattle CIO Council, and Local 7 President Casimiro Abella. Through the efforts of Sister Kaufman, Chairman of the Committee, Local 7 has enlisted the aid of all the CIO and AFL affiliates in Seattle. Old clothing donated by groups and individuals are brought to the Union hall for shipment to San Francisco, and thence to the Philippines.

Committee members hope to form a chapter for Philippine War Relief which will be responsible for raising money to spend for clothing as well as donations to the Red Cross and Philippine Government to rehabilitate the Filipino people. *By V. A. Velasco, Local 7 News Editor*

Happy Negotiations: A new contract providing a five-cent an hour wage increase retroactive to Jan., 1944, free hot coffee or tea at lunch time, and 12 days sick leave with pay on a trial basis, was negotiated between the above-shown representatives of the Woolson Spice Company and Local 297 in Toledo, Ohio. Standing (l. to r.) are N. Ackerman, President of Local 297; L. Gongwer, Supt. of the plant; J. W. Koehrman, President of Woolson Spice; Jack Montgomery, FTA Regional Director; and N. Schmidt, Vice-Pres. of the Company. Sitting (l. to r.) are Roy Chambers, Sara Shoemaker, Geraldine Osterman, and Darnell Fisher, members of Local 297's Negotiating Committee.

The retroactive raise is now before the WLB for approval, according to Regional Director Jack Montgomery. In order to help lick the manpower shortage, the Union agreed to a vacation at the time the plant shuts down once a year for two weeks.

Following negotiations, a joint labor and management mass meeting was held at the plant. Pledging 100% attendance, the workers at Woolson Spice served notice that their production of food stuffs would keep pace with the increasing demands for war material necessary for victory.

Spokesmen for the Company and Union both stressed the importance of food as a weapon for victory not only on the fighting front, but on the home front as well. It was also pointed out that increasing demands for food to feed the peoples of the liberated countries was placing an added demand on America's food supply.

A bonus of $23.28 was awarded to all employees of the Company for working the year of 1944. Those employees who did not work a full year, received $1.94 for each month they worked.

In the last Bond Drive, Local 297 went over the top by more than 103%.

At the regular meeting of the Local, Jenkins Williams was elected Fin. Secy., replacing Kathryne Hase, who resigned. *By Dan Smith, Reporter*

Seek Equal Pay For All Alaska

Seattle, Wash. — Equalization of wages in all Alaska districts for the 1945 season was agreed to by the Alaska Salmon Industry in the first round of conferences between Local 7, representing the cannery workers, and Industry representatives.

Heretofore, workers in the Bristol Bay area received more wages than those in the southeastern Alaska area. With the new agreement, the Industry would pay southeastern Alaska cannery workers as much as those in Bristol Bay.

Although the agreement has been endorsed by the 12th Regional WLB Panel, it is still to be certified by the War Labor Board.

Union demands which have been endorsed by the Panel to the WLB and recommended to be retroactive to the 1944 canning season are:

- Cannery workers to be paid a per diem of $5.00 from the day they are dispatched to the day of embarkation for the cannery.
- Cannery crew shall be transported on vessels licensed to carry passengers.
- One waiter for every twelve cannery men.

A $25 allowance will be paid for the duration of the war to each man at the end of the season to cover his expenses of room and board while he is cleared through government agencies before embarkation.

Assisting Business Agent Cornelio N. Briones in the negotiations with the Alaska Salmon Industry were Felicisimo A. Gonzales, head of the Grievance Committee, and M. V. Singson, alternate member of the Negotiation Committee.

Urge Biddle to Drop Bridges Case

Seattle, Wash.—"American labor in the coming period must contribute even greater effort, service and sacrifice to the total war effort. The morale of American labor and the whole nation will be strengthened by immediate dismissal of the Bridges case," wrote Local 7 in a resolution sent to U. S. Attorney General Biddle and President Roosevelt.

They requested that the case against West Coast labor leader Harry Bridges be "dismissed without delay, as a major contribution toward national unity and victory."

A similar resolution was sent by the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee of Lindsay, California.

Local 45 Goes for "The Negro Soldier"

Richmond, Va. — "The Negro Soldier," a Government film, was shown at a recent meeting of Local 45 under the auspices of the Local's Educational Committee, according to Int. Rep. Max Sussman. About 350 members were present, and it went over grand.

Raises of 15 to 20c were awarded by the WLB to three mechanics at the Larus Stemmery as a result of a Form 10 filed by the Union. The raises are retroactive to March, 1944.

Radio Programs, PAC Keep Local 22 Humming

Winston-Salem, N.C.—Every Saturday at 1 P.M., Local 22 goes on the air over Blue Network Station WAIR. The programs, arranged by the Education Committee of Local 22 under the direction of Educational Director Eleanore Hoagland, cover topics that are in the limelight of public interest, according to Business Agent Theodosia Simpson.

In the past, the staff and members of the Union have participated in radio programs giving the Union's point of view on Infantile Paralysis March of Dimes, Absenteeism, the War Fund and the Red Cross Drive.

Another part of the Local's program of reaching the people has been the activities of the Political Action Committee of Local 22. During the last Presidential election, the Committee was responsible for getting 6 thousand new people on the registration books and out to vote. Since that time the Local has spent most of its energy on the discussion of bills in Congress and letting their Senators and Congressmen know what action to take on them.

With the election of city officials coming up this May, PAC is working out a card system to be used in getting the people registered for the city elections.

Win Back Pay With FTA, Local 22 Members Say

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Our Inquiring Reporter wanted to find out how the members of Local 22 feel about their 2/3 of a million dollar back pay award at the R. J. Reynolds plant. Here are some of the answers he got:

Fannie Van Landingham, who works in No. 60 Softening Machine Dept., got $126.13 back pay. She says, "I've been a member of the Union since the beginning of the campaign in June, 1943. We've been called saps by the Company Union, but I think that those who haven't joined the Union are the saps." Fannie got her first hourly increase in fourteen years when the Union won wage increases in December, 1944.

Carrie J. Caldwell, who works at No. 60 Stemmery, got $111.28 in back pay. She's been a member of the Union since June, 1943, and an employee at Reynolds for the past 22 years. The wage increase won by the Union is the first hourly increase she's had. Before last year she was a piece rate hand stemmer. "If it hadn't been for the Union," says Carrie, "I wouldn't have this money. The Union is just fine. I intend paying back bills that collected while I wasn't getting enough money to pay them."

Willie Grier, Treasurer of Local 22, got $61 back pay. He says he's going to give his wife $10, $10 will be used to pay a bill, and the balance will go into his savings account.

Ellen L. Russell and Lottie McCants from 65 Drop Leaf Stemmery said they are both going to buy their children some clothing with their money.

Robert (Chick) Black, who is coming out of the plant shortly to work as a full time Business Agent, says, "I've had my wallet ready since April 30 because I knew this was coming. It's been in the bag for eight months; now we can see in dollars and cents just what the Union can do for workers."

Earie Galloway, a discharged vet, says, "I first joined the R. J. Reynolds Employees' Association. When I went into the Army I discovered my stupidness. After I was honorably discharged, I went back on my job in No. 256 Lump Making Dept. determined to work just as hard for the CIO as I had worked against it before. I'm really proud to be a member of such a fine organization, which not only talks, but delivers the goods."

FTA news

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FEPC—For Justice On The Job

"Discrimination against any man or woman because of creed, race or national origin, in a plant, community or the Nation, is not in keeping with the growth of democracy being defended today in the battlefronts of the world by our courageous men and women in uniform." (From a resolution adopted at the Fifth National Convention of FTA.)

"The CIO again reaffirms its unwavering opposition to discrimination against the Negro people or the people of any other minority." (From a resolution adopted at the Seventh Constitutional Convention of the CIO.)

(From articles in CIO News by Fred d'Avila)

IT IS a shameful condition that in this country, even in wartime when factories are crying for manpower, Negroes and other minority groups are denied jobs. They are discriminated against in upgrading policies and in general constitute the bottom of the labor market, "last to be hired and first to be fired."

What this means to Negro people and the members of other minority groups that are discriminated against is pretty obvious.

What this means to white people, in terms of very practical self interest, is that selfish American employers who practice discrimination are able to keep at their beck and call a large labor pool which is so anxious to get any kind of work at any kind of wages that it can be used effectively to depress employment standards for the majority of workers.

FEPC Now Weak

The present Fair Employment Practices Committee, which was set up by executive order of the President in June, 1941, was established "for the duration" only. It does not have the "teeth" to enforce its recommendations and is seriously hampered by lack of adequate funds.

How affective can this temporary FEPC be during the reconversion period, when employers will be tempted to use their "first to be fired" weapon against the millions of Negroes, Jews, Catholics, Spanish-Americans and other minorities now working in war production? And will the minority groups among the returning veterans get a fair chance at jobs?

The answer lies in a bill now before the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives. This bill, HR 2232, would set up a permanent FEPC to replace the temporary Committee that is functioning now.

Answer to Axis

HR 2232 would do more than help to guarantee minority groups a fair "break" in employment. It would be this nation's answer to the Axis propagandists who have fed their poison into the minds of millions of residents of Africa, India, China and many other lands —poison which sharply points to job discrimination in America as "proof" that democracy can't be made to work.

HR 2232 is a composite of several bills that were introduced to establish a permanent FEPC. It differs sharply only from one bill that has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Taft, Ohio Republican and reactionary stalwart. Taft's bill would set up a permanent FEPC, but the joker is that it would have no teeth to enforce its policies.

Unlike Taft's bill, HR 2232 would not only make the FEPC permanent but would materially strengthen the agency, which is now of the "token" variety.

FEPC would have authority to prevent job discrimination by employers and unions in interstate commerce. Now its powers extend only to war industry.

FEPC would have power to order discrimination halted and to take its orders to the courts for enforcement, as the National Labor Relations Board can do, instead of having only the authority to urge compliance with its recommendations.

FEPC would have the power to order government contracts withheld from violators of the law. Other penalties for willful violations of FEPC's authority would range up to one year in jail or $5,000 fine or both.

FEPC would have subpoena power which it lacks now.

Fears of management that passage of HR 2232 would disrupt employer-employee relations are groundless, for management would be left free to set its hiring, firing, training and upgrading practices according to any standard it might adopt, so long as there is no arbitrary discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

HR 2232 would set up a full-time five-man commission, instead of the present commission, which has only a full-time chairman and six part-time members who meet once every two weeks. Currently all important policy matters and all cases have to be referred to this fortnightly functioning body.

Broad Backing

HR 2232 has not only the backing of CIO. Groups ranging from the Catholic Interracial Council to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and to the American Jewish Congress support it. Among its many backers are the Methodist Church General Conference, the Presbyterian General Assembly, the National Women's Trade Union League and the YMCA and YWCA.

The urgency of permanent legislation to guarantee justice on the job was put best, perhaps, by the president of the largest union in America, which numbers among its more than a million members almost every creed, race and color in the United States. In recent testimony before the House Labor Committee, Pres. R. J. Thomas of the CIO United Auto Workers Union said:

"The war and the noble cause for which we soldiers on the nation's production lines have been fighting, have opened our eyes to a number of shortcomings in our traditional way of life.

"We are aware now that America can neither speak unashamedly at the peace table nor make sincere promises of freedom and justice to the liberated peoples of Europe, Asia and Africa so long as we, the dominant group here in America, deny even the simplest rudiments of liberty and equality to our more than 5 million Jews, 13 million Negroes, 21 million Catholics, 3 million Spanish-Americans, and 20 million immigrants or first-generation Americans here at home."

Why Are Criminals Free In Abbeville, Alabama?

Abbeville, Ala. (FP) — There's a For Whites Only sign on southern justice.

It's an old sign, faded and worn around the edges — but to 23-year-old Mrs. Recy Taylor it's a real and bitter reminder of what happened one autumn night in this quiet little Alabama village of 500 people.

She remembers the date exactly. It was Sept. 3 between 11 and 12 p.m. Mrs. Taylor was on her way home from church with Mrs. Fannie Daniels, 61, and West Daniels, 18. A car passed them several times but when Mrs. Taylor and her friends reached a deserted spot on the road, the car stopped. Six men got out and ordered Mrs. Taylor to come with them. When she refused they drew knives and guns and forced her into the car.

Mrs. Daniels and her son ran up the road to the home of a Mr. Cook and awakened him, asking his help. Cook and Mrs. Taylor's father went in search of the sheriff. Unable to find him, they found a deputy, who started the hunt for the kidnappers.

Attacked By Hoodlums

They found Mrs. Taylor staggering toward her home. Still dazed with shock, she told them how she had been taken about 1½ miles out of town, blindfolded, stripped of her clothes, and raped by each of the hoodlums.

Mrs. Taylor described the car to the deputy sheriff, who then found the driver, Hugo Wilson, and put him in jail. After questioning, it was reported, Wilson confessed, naming the others who were with him.

Yet Wilson was released the next day. And when the grand jury met on Oct. 9, although they heard the testimony of Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Daniels and West Daniels, they did not indict.

No lynch mobs were formed, no outraged citizens stormed to the sheriff's office demanding revenge for southern womanhood. The reason was simple. Mrs. Recy Taylor is a Negro. Her assailants are white.

But Mrs. Taylor's anguished cry, "I can't do anything about it," echoed in the homes of decent, law-abiding people who saw a new [illegible] in birth during the recent elections, whites and Negroes working together to defeat reaction, whites and Negroes working together in unions. Newly-found friends came to Mrs. Taylor's help, took her away from this town—now seething with threats of reprisal against her—and in New York a Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor was set up.

Fight For Indictment

Immediate aim of the committee is to get the Henry County, Ala., grand jury to indict Mrs. Taylor's attackers. Its next step is to pressure Gov. Chauncey M. Sparks to come through with an investigation, which he promised Dec. 8, after letters and wires of protest began pouring into his office. "Labor, church and civic groups in all sections of the country are calling meetings of protest, demanding that the assailants of Mrs. Taylor be punished according to Alabama law," Henrietta Buckmaster and the Rev. B. C. Robeson, committee co-chairmen, report.

Among the more than 200 prominent citizens from 40 states sponsoring the committee are: Author Carey McWilliams, Pres. Frank X. Martel of Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, Pres. Michael J. Quill of Transport Workers Union (CIO), Pres. Reid Robinson of Intl. Union of Mine Mill & Smelter Workers (CIO), Vice Pres. Ruth Dembo of New London, Conn., Central Labor Union, Pres. Grant W. Oakes of United Farm Equipment & Metal Workers (CIO), Pres. Donald Henderson of Food Tobacco Agricultural & Allied Workers (CIO) and many others.

Recy Taylor

Your union can help by sending letters, telegrams and resolutions to Gov. Sparks, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala., urging equal justice for Mrs. Taylor and by sending copies and financial contributions to the committee at Room 204, 112 E. 19th St., New York 3, N. Y.

From UE News

Calif. Council Maps PAC Drive

Los Angeles, Cal. — Declaring Feb. 25 to March 3 "Visit Your Assemblyman Week," the California-Arizona FTA Regional Conference, meeting here on Feb. 11, urged every local in the region to carry out this activity. California delegations were particularly instructed to ask legislators for support of the People's Health Act, FEPC, and bills to improve unemployment insurance and extend its benefits to agricultural and other workers.

Aiming to put the CIO program of political and legislative action across in California and Arizona, the Conference passed a resolution setting up Legislative Action Committees in each local and district to study and organize legislative and PAC activities, and to involve the locals in the coming local elections. Legislative and political action are to be a special order of business on every agenda, and the locals will aim for 100% PAC contributions of $1 per member.

Announcing the issuance of a monthly regional newsletter to cover news on organizing drives, contract negotiations, WLB decisions, etc., the Conference launched a program of educational activities to strengthen the local unions. A resolution on regional and local union activities instructed locals to issue regular and local newsletters, and to set up Organization, Publicity and Education, and Entertainment and Welfare Committees.

ORGANIZING PLAN

FTA President Donald Henderson spoke on the role of FTA Regional Councils and later summarized the results of the Conference. Philip M. Connelly, Secy. of the Los Angeles CIO Council, brought greetings, and Dixie Tiller, FTA Regional Director, briefly outlined the purposes of the Conference.

With the help of Pres. Henderson, the Conference worked out a minimum program for the expansion of the Union in the California-Arizona Region, involving the organization of the citrus workers of Ventura County; consolidation and continuation of organization in Lindsay-Porterville and the San Francisco Bay area; furtherance of expansion of Local 78 in all main areas; and conducting a survey of unorganized plants in the region.

Twenty-five delegates, representing Locals 2, 3, 7, 64, 78, 306 and the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee, attended the Conference.

FLASH

Election Victories In Packing Sheds

Two NLRB elections were won by FTA within the past several weeks. At the Libbey Fruit Company in Lindsay, California, the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee won an election on Feb. 15, by a vote of 42 for FTA to 11 against. Employees of the Company pack citrus fruits and process citrus juices.

On January 29, Local 35 won an election at the W. & W. Fruit Company in Edinburg, Texas. Of the 26 eligible voters, 20 voted for FTA and 5 against.

Win Insurance Plan At National Starch

By Robert Clark, Regional Director

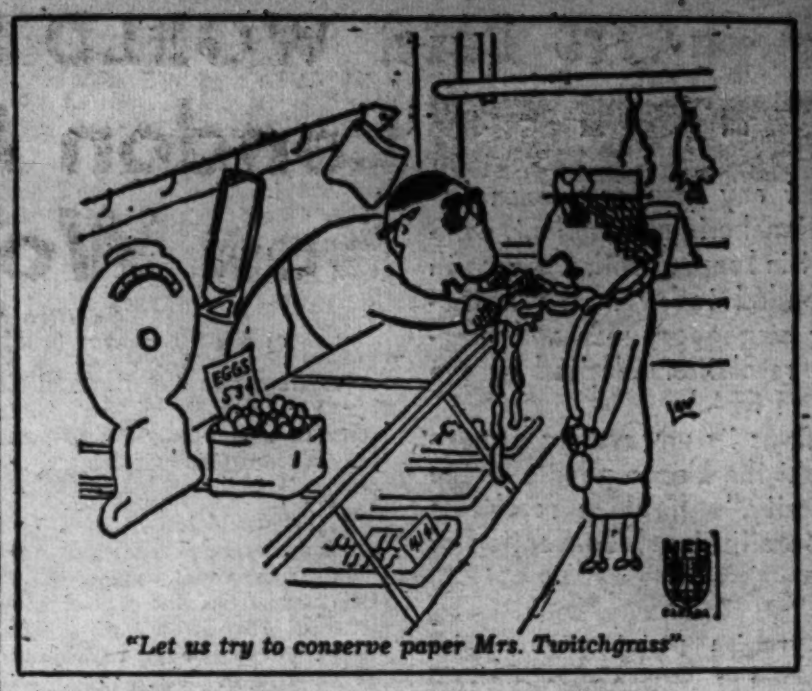
Indianapolis, Ind.—Employees at the National Starch Company have Local 92 to thank for the new group insurance plan which the Company put into effect Feb. 1. While the workers will enjoy the first month's protection free, the Company will pay 60% of the cost for the following months, and employees will pay 40%.

Employees making under 75c an hour will receive the benefits of a $1000 life insurance policy, $17.50 weekly sick benefit after the 7th day of illness, $5.00 per day hospital expenses, and $150 if an operation is necessary.

Workers in the 75c to 99c per hour wage group get $1500 life insurance, $21 weekly sick benefit, $5 per day hospital costs, and $150 surgical costs.

Workers making over $1 per hour get a two thousand dollar policy, $28 weekly sick benefit, $5 per day hospital costs, and $150 surgical costs.

The insurance rates will cost employees from $1.78 per month to $1.90, and for a few cents more per month, the workers' dependents can be included in the plan.



"Let us try to conserve paper Mrs. Twitchgrass"

CIO Supports Manpower Bill

Washington, D. C. — A substitute measure for the May labor draft bill, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Kilgore (D., W. Va.) and Sen. Wagner (D., N. Y.), won prompt support from the CIO. Terming the substitute bill "a long step in the right direction," CIO President Philip Murray urged its adoption. "It is our belief that this bill will effectively meet the current demand in Congress and the executive agencies for a piece of legislation to mobilize America's manpower for the job ahead," he said.

Reporting the bill out of Committee on Feb. 26, Sen. Elbert Thomas (D., Utah), chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, opened debate on the measure from the Senate floor with an earnest plea for its passage. "The effect on the morale of the boys, who are dying in the field, must be considered," he said.

CIVILIAN CONTROL

Chief new feature of the substitute bill is that it places control of manpower in the hands of a civilian agency— the War Manpower Commission. It provides punishment up to $10,000 or one year's imprisonment for employers who violate the WMC's regulations. However, this does not apply to agricultural employers.

One bad feature of the measure is that it deals with agricultural workers separately from workers in other essential industries. While it defers them from military service, they are liable to more severe punishment for violations than any other group of workers.

To make labor mobilization most effective, the bill provides for labor-management committees on a national, state and local basis.

Local 186 Gives $3,000 to War Fund

By George Ardelean, President

Philadelphia, Pa. — "The Red Feather," official magazine of the United War Chest, gives special mention to Local 186 for the fine job they have done in the recent War Chest Drive, and has placed them on the War Chest Roll of Honor.

Subscribing to the amount of $3,000 for 1945, the Local beat last year's contribution by $2,608. Special thanks is due those hard working Shop Stewards who collected contributions from Local 186 members.

Acme-Evans Wage Case Before WLB

Indianapolis, Ind. — A dispute case between Local 84 and the Acme-Evans Company was brought to a War Labor Board hearing on Feb. 9.

Grievance procedure, seniority probation period, overtime pay, vacations, top seniority for Union officials, Union security, and wages were points in dispute. After the Union successfully argued all the issues, except wages, the Chairman of the WLB Panel ordered the Company to supply the Union with information on job classifications, descriptions and wage rates.

The hearing will be continued on the wage dispute on March 5.

Begin Series Of Classes In Local 57

By Max Sussman, Int. Rep.

Richmond, Va.—Under the direction of Brownie Lee Jones of the Southern School for Workers, a series of classes has been started in Local 57. Miss Jones spoke on the history of the labor movement and its effect on the workers in this country, as well as a discussion on how to conduct a union meeting.

Local 57 has been enjoying very fine attendance at Union meetings. Usually 200 members of the 340 in the plant attend.

A 10c general raise for all workers, and a 5c differential for the second shift, is provided in the Local's new contract, now in Atlanta for WLB approval. Vacations with pay up to two weeks are also provided, thus allowing more vacation time to the people who have worked at the Southern Biscuit Co. between one and five years.

GRIEVANCES SETTLED

Joe Stanley has been elected the new President of Local 57, and the membership feels that he will be a good one. Joe is a member of the Grievance Committee and has a record of five successfully handled grievances. Other members of the Committee are Adele Ellis and Henry Dillard. In two of the grievance cases they were able to reinstate to full seniority two members, Edward O'Donnell and Sicily Daniels, who had been deprived of seniority by the Company for allegedly overstaying their leaves of absence. Two other cases involved the readjustment of the shifts of five men.

Local 57 was visited by Mr. Wharton who sought the Union's support for Ashton Dovell for Congress from this district. The Local went on record endorsing Mr. Dovell, feeling that he will the interests of the working people at heart.

Local Listing

In accordance with Article 12, Section 8 of our International Constitution, the numbers and location of the following Locals are presented:

Local No.	*Location*
647	Long Island City, N. Y.
95	Trenton, N. J.
57	Richmond, Va.
100	Orlando, Fla.
81	Toledo, Ohio
216	Arbyrd, Missouri
38	Muncie, Indiana
93	Decatur, Indiana
21	Green Bay, Wisconsin
116	Vinton, Iowa
75	Houston, Texas

Congress Gets Bills Ratifying Bretton Woods Trade Agreements

Washington, D. C. — In response to Pres. Roosevelt's request for immediate legislation to insure full U. S. participation in the Bretton Woods agreements, bills were introduced on Feb. 15 in the Senate by Sens. Wagner (D., N. Y.) and Tobey (R., N. H.), and in the House by Rep. Brent Spence (D., Ky.).

The bill gives Congressional approval to U. S. participation in the International Fund and the International Bank. Acceptance by Congress of the Bretton Woods proposals would be a major step toward insuring full world cooperation after the war.

An 8.8 billion dollar fund would encourage world trade with short-term loans. The bank, on the other hand, would grant long-term loans for reconstruction purposes.

These financial features with loans to the devastated nations, "should help to get production started," in liberated countries, the President explained, "to get over the first crisis of disorganization and fear, to begin the work of reconstruction and development. And they should help our farmers and our industries to get over the crisis of reconversion by making a large volume of export business possible in the postwar years."

The newly introduced bill would give Pres. Roosevelt power to name the governors and directors of the Fund and Bank with the consent of the Senate. He is required to report to Congress twice a year on U. S. participation. No important changes may be made in the Fund or Bank or in U. S. participation without Congressional action.

Each of the United Nations would subscribe to the Fund and the Bank in amounts equal to their position in postwar trade, and voting power is in proportion to the capital invested by each country.

Economists Back Bretton Woods

NINETY per cent of the economists in this country approve the Bretton Woods agreements. Of 250 economists canvassed by the American Economic Association, 225 said it is a "matter of urgent necessity that full support be given to the agreements by all United Nations."

This overwhelming degree of unity seldom reached by American economists on any issue, is the professional economists' answer to the American Bankers' Association which is fighting the adoption of the Bretton Woods agreements.

For a new world labor group: During the historic World Trade Union Conference, which committed itself "to work together for the creation of a powerful democratic trade union federation," the three presidents of the Conference have an informal chat. Left to right: Chairman Vassily Kuznetsov of the Soviet All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; Chairman George Isaacs of the British Trades Union Congress, and CIO Delegate R. J. Thomas, President of the United Auto Workers. (OWI photo via Federated Pictures.)

London Meeting Endorses New World Labor Body

By Herbert A. Klein (By Wireless to Federated Press)

London, England (FP)—Ending its 12-day meeting on a high note of unity and enthusiasm, the World Trade Union Conference adjourned here Feb. 17, unanimously committed "to work together for the creation of a powerful democratic world trade union federation at the earliest practicable date."

This proposal was set before the Conference delegates by CIO Delegate Sidney Hillman in a report which had been unanimously recommended by a drafting committee. Blueprinting of the new organization was left to a 40-man committee which was scheduled to meet for about a week immediately after the adjournment of the Conference.

News of the Crimea agreement reached by the Big Three was greeted with delight by the delegates and strengthened moves toward unity, which were already much in evidence.

Strongly endorsing the Crimea Conference's calling of a meeting at San Francisco to work out a United Nations organization "in accordance with the general principles formulated at Dumbarton Oaks," the World Trade Union Conference voted to seek assurances from the Big Three that "accredited representatives of the trade union movement will be received into their councils at the San Francisco Conference in an advisory and consultative capacity."

It also urged adequate union representation on the assembly of the international organization to be set up and asked that "a qualified, responsible representative of the trade union movement shall be associated with both the security, social and economic councils."

The Conference demanded that all war criminals and those guilty of Nazi atrocities be brought to justice and insisted that union funds and property taken by the Nazis be restored to help rebuild free and democratic unions.

The spirit of the historic gathering was expressed in the preamble of the final Conference report which stated "full agreement on the objectives of a speedy and uncompromising victory, enduring peace, eradication of fascism, international collaboration in the economic sphere, full employment with rising standards of living and security for men and women of all nations, and a democratic society assuring political and civil equality and opportunity for all."

"This report holds out great hope, not only to labor but to the whole world," Hillman told delegates. "I am happy to say that in a very short time we found a basis for agreement on all these matters troubling labor and the world."

On Feb. 23, the program of the World Trade Union Conference, including its demand for "a share in determining all questions of the peace and postwar settlement," was placed before high officials of their various governments by the leaders of the Conference.

Churchill Thanks Labor For Support

London, England—In answer to the message adopted by the World Trade Union Conference hailing the Big Three Crimea agreement and pledging "full support to you in carrying out the decisions you have reached," Prime Minister Winston Churchill wired the labor leaders:

"I am deeply grateful to the delegates to the World Trade Union Conference for all the encouragement your message conveyed to me and my colleagues, President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin."

Labor Delegates to Go To Mexico City Parley

Washington, D. C. (FP)—An important step toward fuller participation of organized labor in major policy making conferences is marked by the State Dept.'s appointment of CIO, AFL, railroad brotherhood and farmers union representatives to the meeting of foreign ministers opened Feb. 21 in Mexico City.

Delegates to the inter-American parley include representatives from government, industry, agriculture, congress and labor. They are scheduled to take up with Latin American spokesmen a wide variety of economic and political problems affecting the common good of the Western Hemisphere.

LABOR DELEGATES

Secy. Treas. David J. McDonald of United Steelworkers and member of the CIO Latin American Committee is CIO delegate. Pres. James G. Patton of the Natl. Farmers Union was named to represent organized small farmers.

The AFL is represented by Secy. Treas. George Meany and the railroad brotherhoods by Exec. Secy. Julius G. Luhrsen of the Railroad Labor Executive Assn.

Head of the whole U. S. delegation is Secy. of State Edward R. Stettinius.

INDUSTRY MEN

Labor spokesmen will participate with such industry representatives as Pres. Eric Johnston of the Chamber of Commerce and Pres. Edward A. O'Neal of the American Farm Bureau Federation, in dealing with problems faced in the transition from war to peace.

Only two Latin American countries will be missing from the conference: Argentina which is under the control of a clique of fascist colonels and the dictatorship of El Salvador.

Delegates to the Mexico City conference are expected to take up means of strengthening democratic forces against intrusion of fascist doctrine as well as ways to help industrialize more backward Latin American countries for promotion of greater security and prosperity throughout the western hemisphere.

Those Boys Need You
BUY WAR BONDS!

Russian Trade Union Program Very Much Like Our Own

By Gladys Chasins
Allied Labor News

(Third in a series of articles prepared by Allied Labor News on the labor movements of the United Nations.)

Moscow, USSR—While the functions of trade unions in the Soviet Union are necessarily different from those of trade unions in the U. S., both have the same broad purpose: to negotiate and protect the wages and working conditions of their members and to advance the welfare of the working population.

The Soviet trade union movement is the largest in the world, with 25,500,000 members, about 85 percent of the eligible working population. It is organized almost exclusively on an industrial basis, except that because of huge memberships and areas covered, some industrial unions are divided into separate regional organizations.

LOCAL UNIONS

The basic unit of the Soviet trade union is the local. These locals comprise not only the 168 affiliates of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions but also form regional councils of all trade unions in one locality, similar to the AFL State Federations of Labor or the CIO Industrial Union Councils.

Local executive boards are elected by secret ballot for one-year terms at general membership meetings. General membership meetings also elect delegates to national conventions, where national officers are elected. A demand by one-third of a union's membership can force the holding of new elections during the term of an elected officer.

Dues and initiation fees, which are uniform in all unions, are one percent of monthly earnings. The management of each enterprise is required by law to pay two percent of the total payroll to the union, which in effect constitutes an addition to the payroll, based on the theory that the broad activities of the union should not place too great a financial burden on the membership.

Behind Red Army: Without the help of Soviet workers on the home front, the Red Army could not now be crashing through Germany on the road to Berlin. Like American workers, those in Russia have topped production schedules to keep the battlefronts supplied. These men, installing a plane engine in an aircraft factory in the Urals, are among the 25,500,000 members of the Soviet trade union movement, the largest in the world. (Federated Pictures)

Managements in practically all plants consist of former workers trained especially for their new positions, frequently at the suggestion of the union.

Group organizers, elected on the basis of one for every five to 20 members, correspond to shop stewards in the U. S. In addition, all large plants have shop committees for each department with 100 or more members. These committees are elected by workers in the particular department and shop meetings are held at frequent and regular intervals, where day-to-day problems are worked out.

Speaking before the AFL convention in Toronto in 1942 on the functions of Soviet trade unions, Jack Tanner, president of Britain's Amalgamated Engineer Union, said that to call Soviet trade unions nothing but appendages to the State is "to leave out of account the nature of the State and those interests its activities foster and serve."

The AUCCTU is represented on the permanent Economic Council of the Soviet Cabinet, which helps to formulate the entire policy of the government in the economic field and which also acts as a labor relations board. Thus, on the higher level, trade unionists participate in the formulation of the nation's entire economy; and in each industry and each factory, this broad program is applied to the specific situations through negotiations between trade union representatives and factory managements.

Almost every local has the following standing committees: a Wage Committee, which handles pay rates and classifications; a Labor Protection Committee, which supervises the enforcement of laws on labor safety, working conditions, hours and health programs; a Welfare Committee, which supervises workers' housing, dining rooms, etc., and gives assistance to families of servicemen; a Production and Inventions Committees, which stimulates socialist emulation, encourages suggestions from the workers for increasing output, and aids in the training of new workers; an Education and Recreation Committee, which runs union clubhouses, camps and libraries.

WITH WORLD LABOR

Although barred from membership in the International Federation of Trade Unions, the Soviet trade union movement is affiliated with British labor in the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee. The recommendation of Soviet delegates to this body that it be enlarged to include U. S., Latin American and Canadian labor led to the idea of a world labor conference.

The formation of a new organization to replace the IFTU is considered by the Soviet labor movement as one of the major problems facing the world labor movement today. Vasili Kuznetzov, chairman of the AUCCTU, stated sharply on his return from London in October that the IFTU does not meet the demands of a world labor organization which "must have a broad democratic basis; must be a militant organization capable of prosecuting the struggle against fascism and those who preach fascism; it must consolidate the ranks of the working classes of all democratic countries for the solution of present and post-war problems.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Union Booklet For Veterans Tells "Facts Of Life" About Home Front

"If we can get the veterans and the unions working together with everybody else around, it's a cinch we won't have any World War III." This is one of the reasons the CIO's United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America recently published a little booklet called "When You Come Back." It aims to aid the returning vet to adjust quickly to civilian life, and to let the men and women in service know how the home front is backing them up.

Taking a poke at some of the most frequently found "rumors" among men in service, "When You Come Back" answers with facts, such as:

Latrine Rumor: War workers receive sky-high wages.

Facts: Wages paid war workers are earned. Tens of thousands of workers worked ten hours a day, seven days a week for several years without a break. These workers, "Yank Magazine" said, "aren't shooting their wad on expensive pretties and night-club carryings-on . . . Cost of living has risen as fast as incomes, maybe faster . . ."

Latrine Rumor: Unions are deadly enemies of management.

Facts: More and more unions and managements are learning to work together to guarantee full production. . . . Many managements are realizing that organized workers are better workers than unorganized workers.

Latrine Rumor: The CIO is "Communistic" or "Red."

Facts: CIO is no more "Communistic" than is the American Constitution. Hitler succeeded in conquering nations of Europe by raising the "red" issue . . . and conquest was thus made easier. Our nation's Commander-in-Chief was "red-baited" during the recent Presidential election. This was done in an attempt to destroy the unity of the people supporting him for reelection. In general, those who "red-bait" do so to weaken the unity of the people.

Latrine Rumor: Negro people are inferior to white.

Facts: There is no evidence whatsoever in science that men are superior or inferior to each other by reason of the color of their skin. There is no such thing as a "pure" race. Character, intelligence, and conduct of people is determined not by "race" but by social opportunities and surrounding conditions.

Latrine Rumor: There is a danger that America will be run by the Jews.

Facts: Facts show that Jews make up only about four percent of America's population. They neither could run nor seek to run the country. Hitler stream-lined an ancient prejudice in order to have a convenient scapegoat for his crimes. Millions of innocent men, women and children—many non-Jews—have perished because of this. Anti-Semitism (prejudice against Jews) is a danger to America's security because no nation can be strong if it permits persecution of its minorities.

Also contained in the booklet, which is prepared with an eye to mailing overseas, is a calendar of current events since Pearl Harbor, a summary of a veteran's rights under the GI Bill of Rights, information on established veterans' organizations, etc.

"When You Come Back" is five cents a copy, and can be purchased from UER&MWA-CIO, 11 East 51st St., New York 22, N. Y.

MAIL CALL

FROM aboard the USS Remey, "somewhere in the Pacific," BM 2/c Raymond Garrett, Local 80 member, writes: "I'm on a destroyer and have seen many strange sights out here in the Pacific.

"We're still getting cigarettes and food out here, thanks to the workers and people of the USA. I am sorry I couldn't attend the FTA Convention, but some day soon we'll all be coming home to our folks and our jobs."

"RECEIVED your letter containing the FTA resolutions on Veterans, and I'm sure every veteran appreciates what FTA is doing for us in the service, writes **Sgt. Donald Brace, Local 186 member from Guadalcanal.**

"Received the post-convention issue of the News recently, and I think the members of the Union are doing a very good job."

"I'm sure you will keep the good news and supplies coming, and we over here will keep the good news coming too as our troops move on."

FROM "Somewhere in the European Theatre of Operations," Pfc. Seymour Press, Local 194 member, writes: "I received a copy of the FTA resolution on Veterans, and I'm sure that it will be accepted wholeheartedly by all the men in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Marine. It deals with Veterans' problems in a very concrete way.

"We know that only a strong union like ours could put through such a resolution which is the hope of all men returning to civilian life.

"Thanks for all the reading matter. Now I can catch up on what the home front is doing to keep up the standard of living and organize more locals, so that we can have the maximum effort for victory over the Axis.

"Food is sure an important weappon, so keep producing it. . . .

"Keep up the good work. I know the Union will work for a speedy victory and the kind of peace we all want . . . with security in our jobs."

Maybe You Know... by CONKLEY

JUNIOR RED CROSS MEMBERS, NUMBERING ALMOST 18½ MILLION COMPRISE THE WORLD'S LARGEST YOUTH ORGANIZATION
"IF YOU CAN'T FILL HIS BOOTS, FILL HIS VEINS"
A DAILY AVERAGE OF 8,338 PINTS OF BLOOD HAS BEEN COLLECTED BY RED CROSS FOR THE ARMED FORCES SINCE THE PROGRAM BEGAN IN FEB. 1941.
THE DROWNING RATE HAS BEEN HALVED SINCE THE RED CROSS SAFETY PROGRAMS BEGINNING IN 1914 WHEN COMMODORE LONGFELLOW RECEIVED THE FIRST LIFESAVING CERTIFICATE. HE IS STILL ACTIVE IN THE PROGRAM

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LABOR

"Swell Our Ranks"

By DR. PHILIP FONER

(This is the fourth of a bi-weekly series on American labor history written for Federated Press and FTA NEWS by Dr. Foner, instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York and author of a number of works on American history.)

During the early months of the Civil War the union movement was all but asleep. Economic crisis, the enlistment of union men in the federal army and the loss of southern locals reduced the ranks of existing labor organizations.

By 1863, however, there was a revival of interest in union organization. Wages rose slowly or not at all while prices more than doubled. To meet this serious problem workers began to organize all over the country. A popular labor song of the period, entitled Swell Our Ranks: An Appeal To Non - Union Men, opened:

Swell our ranks, ye sons of labor,
Why aloof from Union stand?
See our banner proudly floating
O'er the broad and fertile land.

During the 2-year period, 1863 to 1865, several hundred local unions and many city central bodies were set up. At the same time 10 national unions were established, including the plasterers, journeymen curriers, ship carpenters, cigar-makers, coach makers, painters, heaters, tailors, carpenters and joiners and bricklayers and masons.

Equal Rights

Men and women workers united in many of the struggles that took place at this time. At first, some of the men opposed the entrance of women into the labor movement. They claimed that women would lower the general wage scale since they were paid less than were the men for doing the same work.

Other unionists who were more alert argued that the solution of this problem lay in the organization of women workers and establishing the principle of equal pay for equal work. They pointed out, moreover, that women could help the men in organizing. Fincher's Trades Review, the outstanding labor paper of the period, featured the speech of William Harding, president of the New York City central labor body, before the New York Working Women's Union in 1865.

Harding asked the women to persuade their men friends who did not belong to a union to join immediately. "If they do not join," he said, "then have nothing to do with them, and tell them you do not wish to associate with any gentleman who refuses to aid in a movement calculated to benefit his fellow-man."

8-Hour Day

The growth of city central labor bodies and national unions during the 1860s gave rise to the demand for a national labor federation which would unite the various organizations throughout the land. At this time the major issue which provided the stimulus for the establishment of a national labor federation was the demand for the 8-hour day.

During the Civil War, for example, workers all over the country called on Congress and the legislatures to pass laws to establish a shorter working day as soon as the war was over. In this way the war effort would not be injured but at the same time some of the economic problems arising from reconversion to peacetime production would be solved.

The movement for the 8-hour day led, in turn, to the organization of the first national labor federation in American labor history—the Natl. Labor Union.

JOHNNIE JONES
BY DON RICO
OOOH! MY HEAD!
JOHNNIE HAS FINALLY MADE HIS SHIP BUT NOT WITHOUT LEAVING A DEEP IMPRESSION ON JUMBO, WHO TAKES THE PARTING VERY MUCH TO HEART-------
YOU! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT JONES WASN'T A CHUMP? HE MADE DOPES OUT OF US!
AW--HE LOOKED LIKE A SUCKER--HOW WAS I TO KNOW?
IT'S TOO BAD WE FLOPPED, EH, JUMBO? WE'D HAVE BEEN PAID PLENTY IF WE'D GOTTEN THE INFO ON HIS SHIP AND SAILING TIME!
YEAH!
MEANWHILE, ON BOARD "THE MISTY QUEEN," WHICH IS STILL AT THE PIER---
HEY, JONES--SKIPPER WANTS TO SEE YOU!
HUH? WHO--ME?
HOLY GEE! THE OLD MAN! GOSH! WHAT'S HE WANT--? WHAT DID I DO?--DID I MAKE A MISTAKE? GEE WHIZ!
EASY!
J-J-JONES REPORTING, S-S-S-SIR!
AH! COME IN, JONES--AND STOP STUTTERING!
MEET LEON FARREL OF THE F.B.I.--
THE F.B.I.!?
NOW WHAT---?
Federated Press

ARE all of your local's members in the service on the FTA News mailing list? If not, send their names and addresses to the News today!